

REMARKS

Claims 7, 9, 13 and 14 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 1-6, 8 and 10-12 are canceled, claims 7 and 9 are amended and claim 14 is added.

Claims 6-8 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over either Baude et al. (Baude), U.S. Patent No. 5,296,305, or WO 99/29750 (WO '750), and claims 1-5 and 9-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over either Baude or WO '750. The rejections are respectfully traversed.

Baude and WO '750 fail to disclose or suggest the combination of steps as recited in claim 7.

Baude discloses a method of manufacturing an optical lens or ocular implant that provides refractive index modulation (col. 1, lines 8-15). In Baude, a previously shaped lens of transparent hydrophilic polymer of hydrogel type is impregnated with a photopolymerizable composition containing at least one monomer and one photoinitiator in a solution in a solvent, and the lens is subjected to irradiation for selective local polymerization of the monomer. Baude's method includes the selective local polymerization and is premised on that the material of the previously shaped lens differs from the material for impregnation.

WO '750 discloses a method for making a transparent polymer material for intraocular lens, that is resistant to protein deposits. The method includes a step of swelling a polymer matrix in a solution containing a solvent for swelling and a crosslinkable composition, and immersing a transparent polymer matrix in the solution to impregnate the polymer matrix with the composition.

Accordingly, neither Baude nor WO '750 disclose or suggest the third, fourth and fifth steps of claim 7. In particular, with the combination of steps in claim 7, the base material obtained by thermal polymerization is further impregnated with a plurality of the same monomers (so that physical characteristics such as refractive power of the base material

remains unchanged before and after re-polymerization), (step 3) and then the base material is heated for repolymerization (step 5) in order to suppress the occurrence of glistening which may be caused in the base material manufactured by polymerization of the plurality of monomers.

Accordingly, the combination of steps recited in claim 7 is different from Baude and WO '750 and the problems to be solved, mutual relations of materials, manufacturing processes and effects by the combination of steps in claim 7 are different.

It is respectfully requested that the rejections be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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